

REMARKS

The Advisory Action mailed June 1, 2004 has been received and the Examiner's comments carefully reviewed. Claims 21, 23, 24, and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 19 and 25-27 have been amended. No new subject matter has been added. Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following remarks.

Claim Objections

Claims 19 and 20 have been objected to because the number of the claim as recited in claim 19, line 7, was missing. Claim 19 has been corrected accordingly, and refers to allowable claims 1, 7, and 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 25-27 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for this notification. Claims 25-27 have been rewritten in independent form to include the features of claim 21 as that claim originally appeared in the application. It was indicated in the Official Action, dated August 12, 2003, that claims 25-27 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the base claim, which was claim 21 as it originally appeared in the application. Claims 25-27 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

Claims 1-18, 29, 31, 32, and 34 have been indicated to be allowed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 21, 23, 24, and 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yagi (US 5,808,999). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

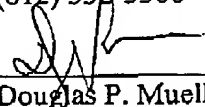
Claims 21, 23, 24, and 28 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: July 9, 2004



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DPM/AS/jt